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Our Gift to the Hague Peace Palace.

By Lucia Ames Mead.

The recent appropriation by Congress of \$20,000 for the contribution of the United States to the decoration of the Hague Palace is of interest to all citizens who desire that the work of sculpture to fill the conspicuous place allotted us shall be worthy. Almost all other nations have been forehanded in their contributions, which were announced long ago, and most of which are in place. Italy has supplied the beautiful yellow and blue marbles that are used in the main corridor, Russia has sent a superb huge vase of jasper, Japan has contributed rare tapestry, etc., but at the opening of the palace this autumn the most conspicuous place at the head of the first landing, which has been reserved for the United States, will present a blank wall—a fact much to be deplored.

It has been reserved for us to express through some sculptured group the true significance of the whole building, which stands for international legislation and justice, and whose law library represents education upon these high functions. It is of great importance that the treatment of this subject shall not be the traditional presentation of the idea of peace like that recently designed for a peace medal—a lovely female figure with an olive branch.

It is important that Peace should be represented by a Minerva-like figure, with unblinded eyes, holding the scales of justice, if it be a woman, or by a noble, virile figure; and that War, if presented at all, should be a bull-necked, low-browed creature of a primitive type.

At the International Peace Congress at Munich, some years since, a photograph of a group by an eminent sculptor was displayed by one of his pupils as representing Peace and War, and approval was urged with the understanding that this might be used in some location at The Hague. On the narrow pedestal, supporting a prostrate victim whose arms and legs extended beyond its limits, rose a glorious figure of the God of War with uplifted sword, and an exquisite nude figure of a gentle woman, symbolizing Peace, whose hand restrained the execution of his evil purpose. In this conception War was made the most inspiring figure and Peace merely his feminine counterpart. However great the artist's technical skill, he had misconceived the central idea. It is incumbent on those who wish to dignify peace that it should convey the idea of strength, not delicacy; activity, not passivity; intellectual power, not mere loveliness.

The problem ought to be thought out, first by those who understand what the Temple of Peace signifies before it is handed over to any artist for treatment. The result will be deplorable if it does not convey the new idea of world organization, of the interdependence of nations, of the strong helping the weak, and the idea of justice. A large pedestal on which bas-reliefs could suggest some of these ideas would seem a necessity.

The committee which will have the matter in charge can be reached through Hon. Richard Bartholdt, and it is to be hoped that it will receive suggestions as to the general conception.

As nothing can possibly be designed and finished by autumn, it is most important at this stage that a work

of art which is to typify the greatest goal and achievement of the family of nations—the substitution of law for war—should receive thoughtful attention of scholars and statesmen as well as of artists.

The William Ladd Commemoration at Portsmouth, N. H.

By Charles E. Beals.

The memory of the founder of the American Peace Society was signally honored in Portsmouth, N. H., on Hague Sunday, May 18. In the morning a special peace sermon was preached in the North Congregational Church by the pastor, Rev. Lucius H. Thayer, D. D. Mr. Ladd's stepfather, Rev. Joseph Buckminster, D. D., for a long time was the pastor of this historic church, which dates back to the pastorate of Rev. Joshua Moody. In the afternoon, in spite of the rain, several hundred people gathered around the grave of William Ladd in the South Cemetery of the city. Hon. Sherman E. Burroughs, of Manchester, vice-president of the New Hampshire Peace Society, presided. Rev. Dr. Thayer offered prayer. The children of the public schools rendered peace hymns. Rev. Alfred Gooding, in behalf of the South Cemetery Improvement Association, voiced the gratitude of the citizens of Portsmouth for the co-operation of various peace societies in repairing the Ladd lot. The secretary of the Chicago Peace Society paid a brief tribute to the memory of the author of "A Congress of Nations." In the evening a union meeting of the churches of Portsmouth was held in the spacious "meeting-house" of the historic North Church. Vice-President Burroughs, of the State Peace Society, presided. The anthems, hymns, and responsive reading all voiced the peace message. Hon. Daniel W. Badger, mayor of Portsmouth, extended to visiting pacifists an official welcome to the city. The essay which had been awarded the prize offered to pupils of the Portsmouth High School by the New Hampshire Peace Society was read by its author, Lucius Ellsworth Thayer, to whom Chairman Burroughs then publicly presented the prize in gold. (Twenty essays were submitted in the contest.)

Two addresses followed, the first on "William Ladd, Dreamer," by the Chicago Peace Secretary, and the other by Mr. George E. Fogg, of Portland, Maine, the secretary of the Maine Peace Society, whose theme was "The Mechanics of Peace."

The local press gave generous space to the report of the Peace Day exercises, the *Portsmouth Daily Chronicle* of May 19 devoting over seven columns to the subject.

Credit should be given to the Massachusetts Peace Society, the Rhode Island Peace Society, and our South Atlantic secretary, Dr. J. J. Hall, whose generous co-operation with the Chicago Society made possible the much-needed repairs to the Ladd lot, than which, for pacifists, there is no more sacred shrine in the entire world.

One of the gratifying features of the occasion was the joy expressed by the mayor and other representatives of Portsmouth at the discovery that old "Strawberry Bank," which treasures memories of Pepperell, Paul